

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CONTINUED ASSISTANCE ACT UPDATES

The federal government recently passed an extension of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which includes an expansion of unemployment insurance benefits for District of Columbia workers.

While the CARES Act was signed into law by the President on March 27, 2020, and extended on December 27, 2020 through the Continued Assistance Act, the U.S. Department of Labor is still in the process of releasing corresponding guidance. The guidance will provide states with operating, financial and reporting instructions specific to the CARES Act of 2020 through the issuance of a series of Unemployment Insurance Program Letters (UIPLs). Like most other states, the District's Unemployment Insurance system is currently being updated to enable processing of the new CARES Act programs.

A summary of the expanded unemployment insurance programs offered through the provisions of the CARES Act is provided below:

### **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)**

- PUA is effective week ending February 2, 2020 through March 13, 2021
- Individuals who are typically ineligible for regular UI (i.e., independent contractors, gig workers, those with insufficient work history) that cannot work due to COVID-19 are eligible for up to 50 weeks of PUA benefits
- Our system is currently being updated to accommodate the changes included in the Continued Assistance Act. Please continue to file your weekly certifications

### **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)**

- Effective week ending January 2, 2021 through March 13, 2021
- \$300 per week on top of current regular UI benefits
- Benefit will be automatically updated if you qualify and are currently receiving benefits

### **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)**

- Effective through March 13, 2021
- Up to 24 additional weeks of UI benefits, plus \$300 FPUC
- Benefit will be automatically updated if you qualify, are currently receiving benefits, and once our technical systems are modified

## Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) Update

- MEUC will provide a \$100 weekly supplement to eligible individuals with annual self-employment income of at least \$5,000 from as early as December 27, 2020 until March 13, 2021.
- To be eligible for MEUC, individuals must have received at least \$5,000 of self-employment income in the most recent taxable year ending prior to the individual's application for regular UI. Additional information about how to apply for MEUC will be provided once it becomes available.
- We expect the MEUC application to be ready at the end of February 2021 or beginning of March 2021.

We will update this web page, Facebook and Twitter when we have more information.

## OFF-PEAK HOURS

We strongly encourage you to file your initial application for benefits online. This online application is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For faster processing times, we recommend that you file during non-peak hours, such as early in the morning or late in the evening (8:00 PM – 7:00 AM).

## IDENTITY VERIFICATION PROGRAM

To verify your identity, you must provide clear images/copies of your government-issued photo identification and social security card through email to [DOESUI.Verification@dc.gov](mailto:DOESUI.Verification@dc.gov).

Disclaimer: The Department of Employment Services (DOES), in conjunction with the DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) ensures all emails between DOES and each claimant is secure.

\*When emailing your identity documents, please provide the following information as the subject line: Identity Documents, the last 4 digits of your social security number and your legal first and last name.

**For resources and additional information on the District of Columbia response to coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov).**